

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4 and 9 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend claims 1 and 5 and add new claims 10-11 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A paper clip for clamping a document, comprising:

5 a first clipping piece having first and second ends along a length direction, said first clipping piece having a top surface and a slot therethrough, said slot extending from said first end along the length direction to a position apart from the second end such that a length of the slot is substantially shorter than which of the first clipping piece, the slot further having a width smaller than which of the first clipping piece;

10 a support beam having an inner surface adjoining the slot, an outer surface opposite to the inner surface, a lower side and an upper side, said support beam having its lower side adjoined to the first end of the first clipping piece and extending along a height direction which is perpendicular to the length direction, the lower side of support beam further having a width which is substantially the same as the width of the first clipping piece; and

15 a second clipping piece having a fixed end and a free end along the length direction, said second clipping piece having its fixed end adjoined to the upper side of the support beam and extending along the length direction in such a manner that a length distance between the free end and the support beam is no longer than the length of the slot, the second clipping piece having a curved part which is partially
20 located within the slot, the second clipping piece further having a width which is smaller than the slot;

wherein the inner surface of the support beam is a flat plane in perpendicular to the length direction, such that the inner surface substantially provides a guiding function when the document is received between the first and second clipping pieces
25 so as to make a leading edge of the document being flush with the inner surface;

wherein, a projection of the first end of the first clipping piece does not overlap with width of the fixed end of the second clipping piece in the height direction;

30 wherein the first end of the first clipping piece and the fixed end of the second clipping piece are both adjoined to the inner surface, such that the outer surface of the support beam substantially forms part of the outer contour of the paper clip: clip, wherein the support beam is as wide as the paper clip.

Claim 2. (Original) The paper clip of claim 1, wherein the top surface of the first clipping piece has a thinner portion at the second end for receiving at least a document therefrom.

Claim 3. (Original) The paper clip of claim 1, wherein the second clipping piece has a recessed area formed on a upper surface thereof, said recessed area has a depth of around 0.01 to 1.0 mm for attaching a sticker thereon.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) An improved paper clip for clamping a document, comprising:

5 a first clipping piece having a thin plane shape with a sunken slot for placing documents and being a lower part of the paper clip, the sunken slot being as a hollow type;

a second clipping piece having a thin plane shape and being an upper part of the paper clip, the second clipping piece being protruded downward to the sunken slot of the first clipping piece, and the second clipping piece being smaller than the sunken slot of the first clipping piece; and

10 a support beam having a vertical plane with certain height and individually connecting to the first and second clipping pieces in top view; connected ends of the support beam and the clipping pieces being located on an opposite side to a side where documents being inserted in; a rear end of said sunken slot of the first

15 clipping piece being merged with the support ~~beams~~. beam, wherein the support beam is as wide as the paper clip.

Claim 6. (Original) The improved paper clip as cited in claim 5, wherein, the certain height of support beam is available for different thicknesses of documents.

Claim 7. (Original) The improved paper clip as cited in claim 5, wherein, the first clipping piece has a thinner portion at a front end where documents being inserted in.

Claim 8. (Original) The improved paper clip as cited in claim 5, wherein, the second clipping piece has a recessed area with a depth of around 0.01 to 1.0 mm for attaching a sticker thereon.

Claim 9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (New) The paper clip of claim 1, wherein a bottom surface of the second clipping piece is a roughened surface.

Claim 11. (New) The paper clip of claim 5, wherein a bottom surface of the second clipping piece is a roughened surface.